

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 658 without my signature.

Like all Californians, I am concerned about the violence in our communities. I strongly support local efforts aimed at reducing community violence. However, this bill would require the creation of a new program that draws away from the efforts California is already undertaking.

In May 2007, my Administration established the Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention Program (CalGRIP), targeting more than \$31 million in state and federal funding toward local anti-gang and violence efforts. On September 4, 2007, my Administration released \$2.8 million in discretionary Workforce Investment Act funds to local government to expand job training for at-risk and gang-involved youth and gang members.

Given the need for California to support its existing efforts, the creation of a new program is unnecessary at this time.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger